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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 21 April 1971

1. (Confidential - JMM) David Abshire, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, called to apologize for not having moved faster to set up a meeting with Chairman Mahon, House Appropriations Committee, regarding our Radios. He explained his office had been completely tied up in the refugee problem stirred up by Representative Paul McCloskey, but he would move as soon as possible, and agreed to try to set up a meeting for Friday, 23 April.

In response to my question about how State was handling Senator McGovern's letter to State and CIA about the U.S. involvement in drug traffic in Southeast Asia, Mr. Abshire said that he was not up on this and Mr. Jack Leahy, of his office, was handling it and would get in touch with me.

Later in the morning, Mr. Abshire's secretary called to say that the meeting with Chairman Mahon had been set for 10:00 on Friday, 23 April 1971. Mr. Cord Meyer, who will accompany Mr. Abshire and me, has been notified.

2. (Confidential - JMM) Called Mr. Pat Holt, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, to say that unfortunately we were afraid we couldn't respond to the request of Senator Frank Church's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs by bringing [REDACTED] to appear before the Subcommittee. I said as an alternative we would like to get their questions which we could pass on to [REDACTED] and get his response which could be cranked into the Director's briefing. I said [REDACTED] and I would like to meet with Holt in the next day or two to get these questions and review just what it is the Subcommittee is interested in. We agreed on 10:30 Monday, 26 April for this purpose. I confirmed that the Director would be available to appear before the Subcommittee on Wednesday, 5 May at 10:00 a.m.

3. (Confidential - JMM) Received a call from Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, who said Chairman Hebert and Representative Leslie Arends would like to meet with Agency and Defense representatives at 3:45 p.m. today to discuss "budget problems." I later received a call from Mr. Hebert's office on the same matter and said that John Clarke, D/PPB, and I would attend. See Memo for Record for details.

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4. (Confidential - JMM) Called Representative Ogden Reid (R., N. Y.) and arranged for Mr. [REDACTED] SAVA, to brief Mr. Reid at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon in response to Mr. Reid's inquiry to the Director yesterday regarding the Phoenix program.

5. (Confidential - JMM) This afternoon, I discussed with Chairman F. Edward Hebert, House Armed Services Committee, and Assistant Chief Counsel Frank Slatinshek, the problem of Representative Charles Bennett's desire to get on the public record a denial of allegations that the Agency had been involved in assassinations. I told Mr. Hebert of my conversation with Mr. Bennett and of the Director's feeling that at least the Agency should take no initiative in the matter. I said I planned to report this to Mr. Bennett with the comment that we would defer to the Committee as to whether they thought any action was called for. Mr. Hebert said he definitely agreed with us that nothing would be gained by an effort to refute the rumors in question, and he would take this position with Mr. Bennett if queried.

6. (Confidential - JGO) Met with Mr. John Martiny, Staff Director, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, who told me that he has not yet met with Mr. Victor Smiroldo, of the Committee staff, to discuss the hearings planned by Representative Hanley on the question of protection of constitutional rights of Federal employees. Mr. Martiny stated that he does not see that anything would be accomplished by having Agency witnesses appear before the Hanley Subcommittee on Employee Benefits at this time since we have given extensive testimony on the previous bill and the Subcommittee hearings are scheduled as open hearings. Being open hearings, the Agency would be limited in the arguments it could present on its own behalf. This, of course, is a matter to be discussed with Mr. Hanley after Martiny and Smiroldo have gotten their heads together. Separately, Martiny noted that he will raise the general question of Agency interest in this legislation with the Chairman of the full Committee (Representative Dulski) and find out when Mr. Dulski would want us to meet with him.

7. (Confidential - JGO) Met with Mr. Charles Whitley, Administrative Assistant to Representative David Henderson (D., N. C.), and told him that our 25X1A office is in contact with the Office of Legislative Relief, Department of Army, and will be the point of contact for any information Army might need from the Agency in reporting on H. R. 63430, Henderson's bill for the relief of [REDACTED]

25X1A [REDACTED] Mr. Whitley expressed Mr. Henderson's appreciation for the follow-up on this matter and told me that Henderson feels quite strongly about the bill. In the event of an unfavorable report by the military, Henderson may request formal hearings and testimony on the matter.

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8. (Secret - JGO) Accompanied Mr. [REDACTED] SAVA, to a meeting with Representative Ogden Reid (R., N.Y.) concerning the Vietnam pacification program. Mr. Reid was apparently well versed in the content and detail of the Vietnamese government Pacification Program appendix titled "Country Defense and Rural Development Plan" and feels that certain statements contained therein "have been endorsed by the U.S. Government," and are contrary to our American ideals and principals. He is particularly bothered by the arrest "quotas" and by what he has been led to believe is a definition of the term neutralize. The meeting was interrupted and closed on a friendly note that the Congressman would like to talk to us further on the subject.

9. (Unclassified - JGO) Delivered a letter from the Director addressed to Senator Stennis, as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to the Senator's office.

10. (Secret - GLC) Attended the first meeting of the White House Legislative Interdepartmental Group. Topics covered of interest to the Agency included GAO requests for information; responses to Senator Symington's letters of 9 March on the reconstitution of his Subcommittee on Security Agreements and Commitments Abroad; and RFE/RL legislation. See Memo for Record.

11. (Internal Use Only - LLM) Called Mr. Frank Chapin, NSC Staff, about the reported National Security Council comments to OMB on the Case bill, International Agreements, S. 596 (see Item 13, Journal of Monday, 19 April 1971) and he said he will try to obtain a copy for us.

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/s/ JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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cc:
ER
E/DDCI
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. Houston
Mr. Goodwin
DDI
DDS
DDS&T
OPPB
EA/DDP

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